

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

September 24, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 16, 2004, **BRUCE JOHNSON**, age 42, of Carbondale, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. JOHNSON, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment, charging him with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, was sentenced to 100 months' imprisonment, 4 years supervised release, and was fined \$200.

The investigation established that from at least August 2002, through June 2003, JOHNSON was involved with ANTHONY J. TUCKER, a/k/a "Mike and DERRICK M. BARBER, a/k/a "Gregory Kizer," and "KT," and others in the distribution of crack cocaine. During the drug conspiracy, TUCKER and BARBER were distributing crack cocaine at the Brentwood Commons Apartments in Carbondale, Illinois. JOHNSON would assist TUCKER and BARBER in the crack cocaine distribution by directing crack cocaine customers to them and by letting them know when the police were in the area. TUCKER and BARBER have already received prison sentences of 120 months and 168 months, respectively, for their role in the crack cocaine distribution.

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, Jackson County States Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.